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Mahabharata-10

THE PANDAVAS AT EKACHAKRA

VEDA VYASA'S EPIC ON THE BHARATA RACE WAS FIRST RECITED IN PUBLIC, BY HIS DISCIPLE VAISHAMPAYANA, AT THE BEHEST OF THE AGELESS SEER VYASA HIMSELF.

THE RECITAL TOOK PLACE IN THE AUGUST PRESENCE OF KING JANAMEJAYA— GREAT-GRANDSON OF THE GRANDSON OF VYASA— AND THE MANY LEARNED SAGES WHO HAD ASSEMBLED FOR JANAMEJAYA'S SARPA SATRA*.

THE NINTH SESSION OF OUR RENDERING OF VAISHAMPAYANA'S RECITAL OF VYASA'S MAHABHARATA NARRATED THE ADVENTURES OF THE PANDAVAS AFTER THEIR ESCAPE FROM VARANAVATA. IT CONCLUDED WITH THEIR ARRIVAL AT THE HOUSE OF A BRAHMANA IN EKACHAKRA, A NEARBY TOWN.

* 12-YEAR-LONG SNAKE SACRIFICE

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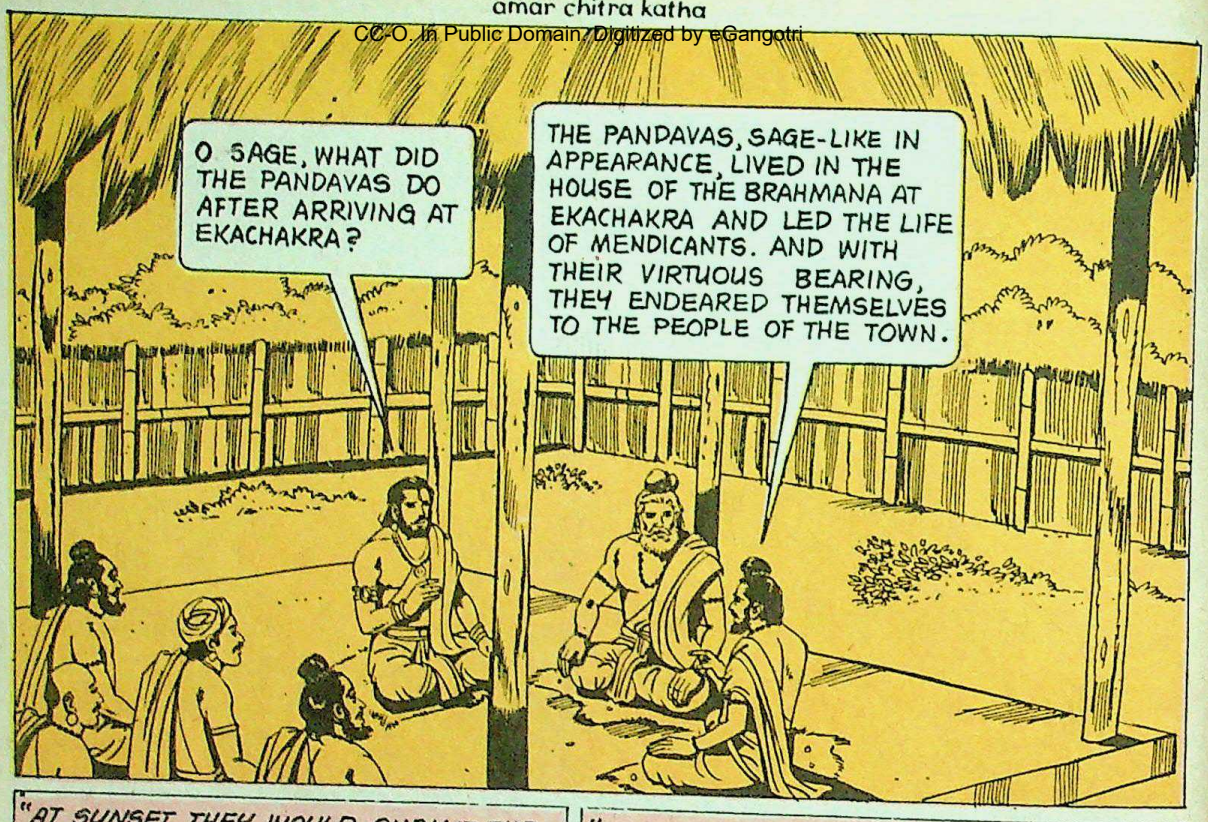

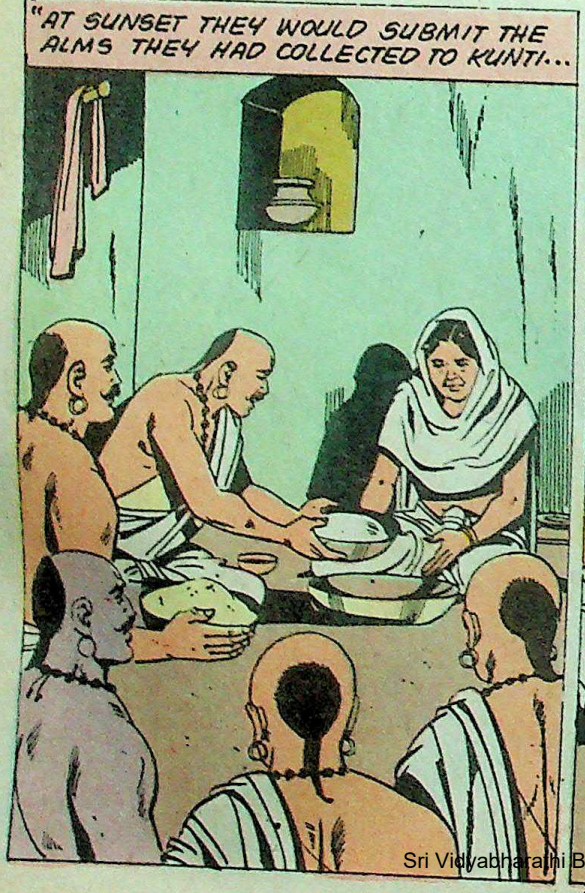

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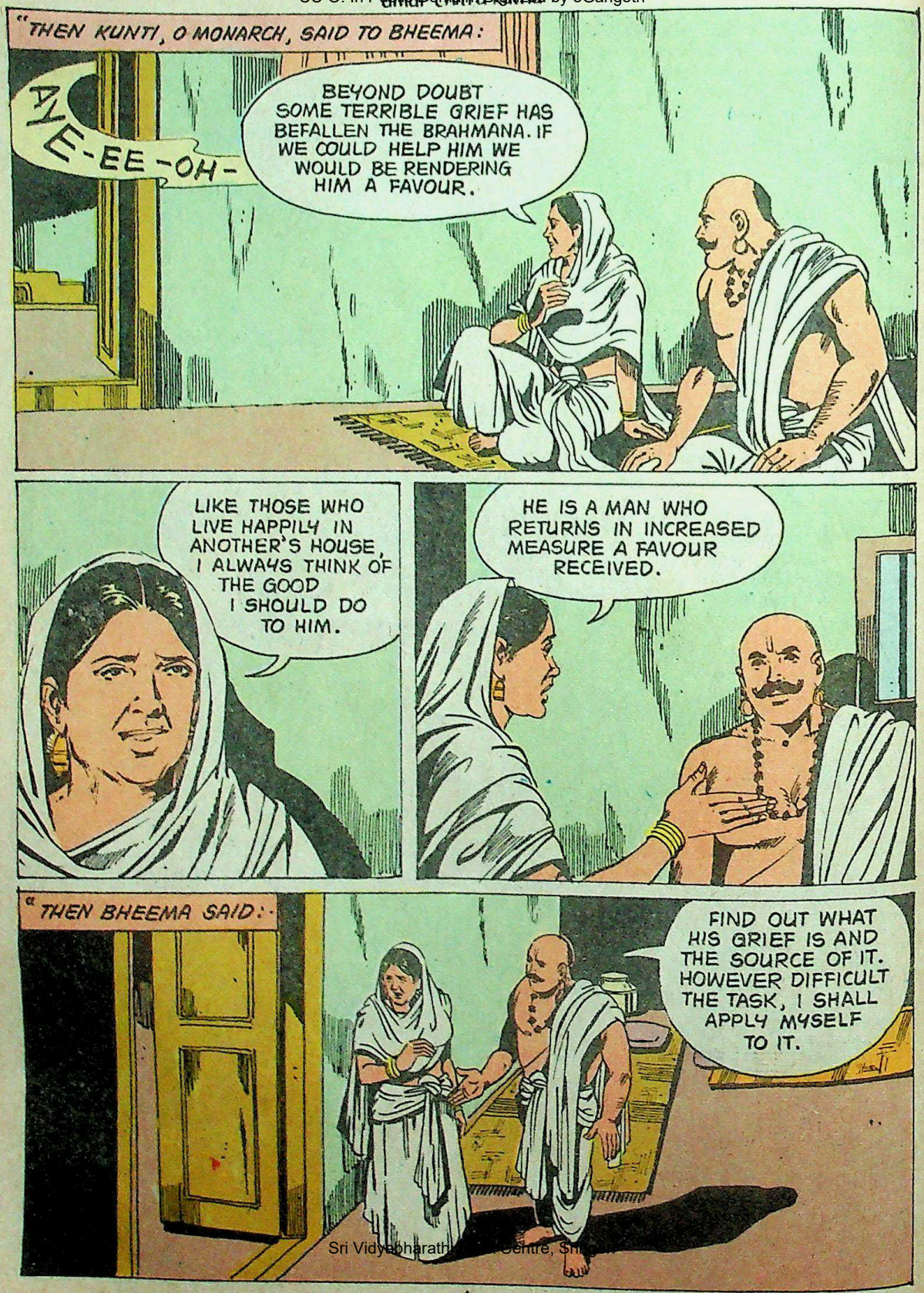

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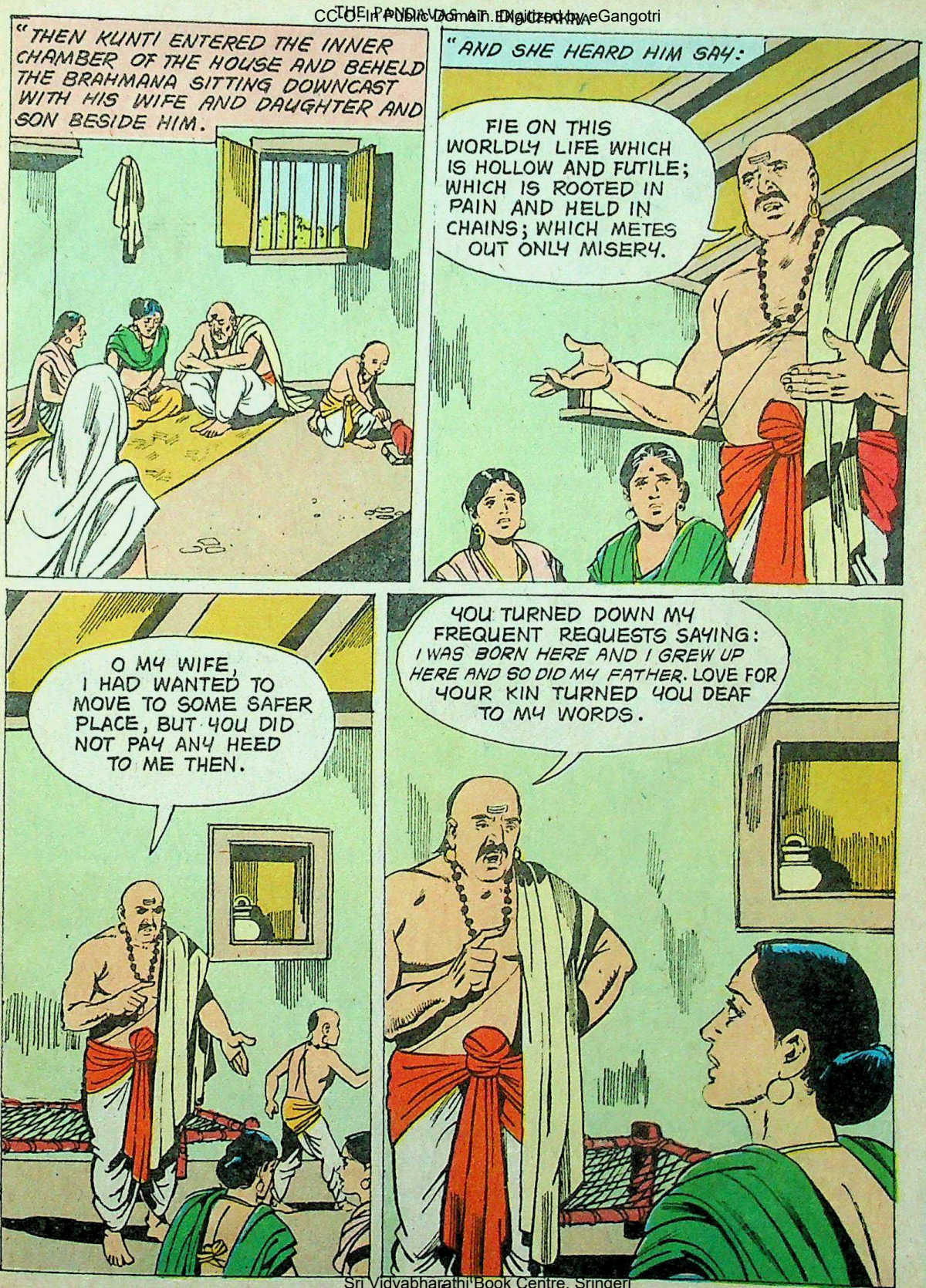

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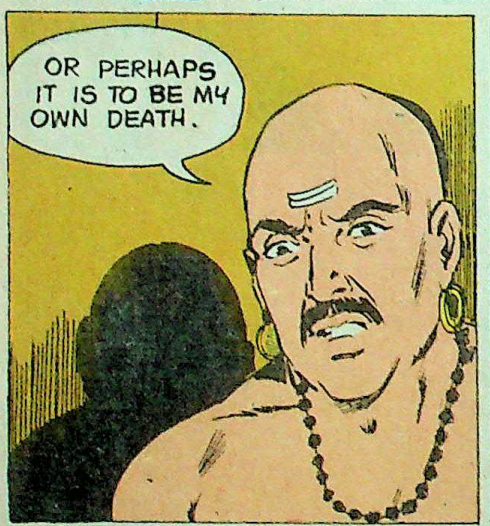

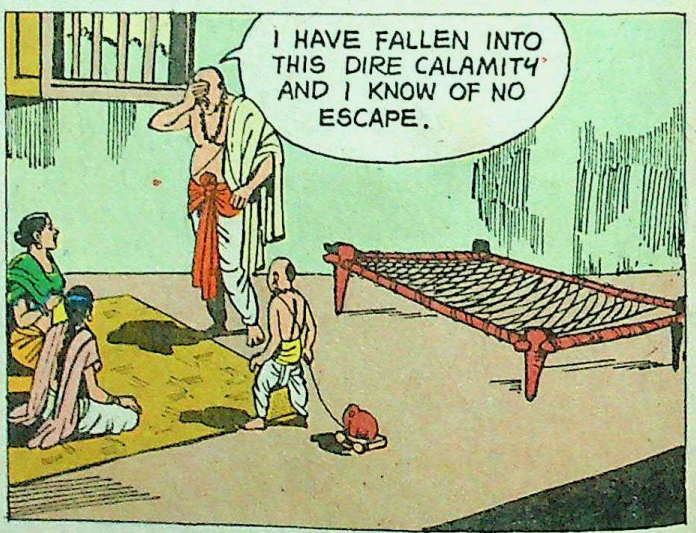

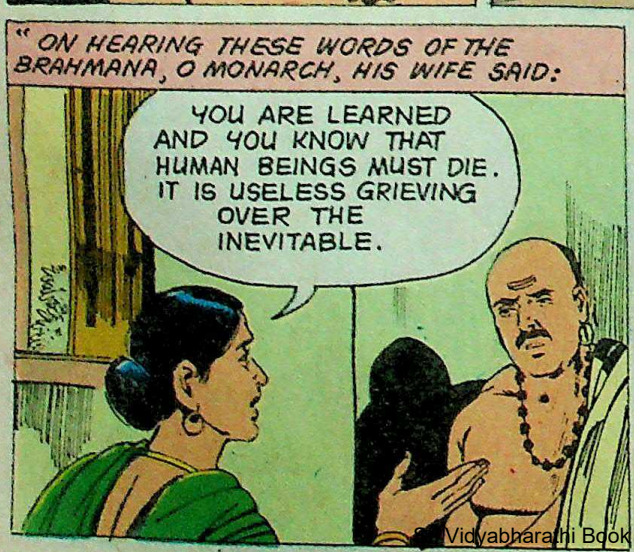

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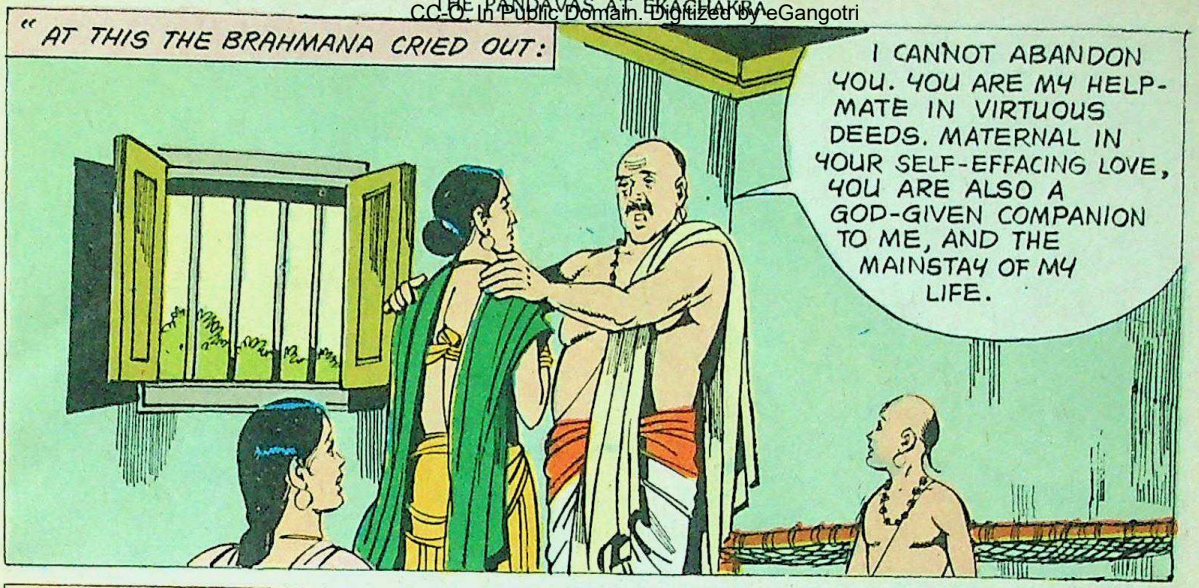

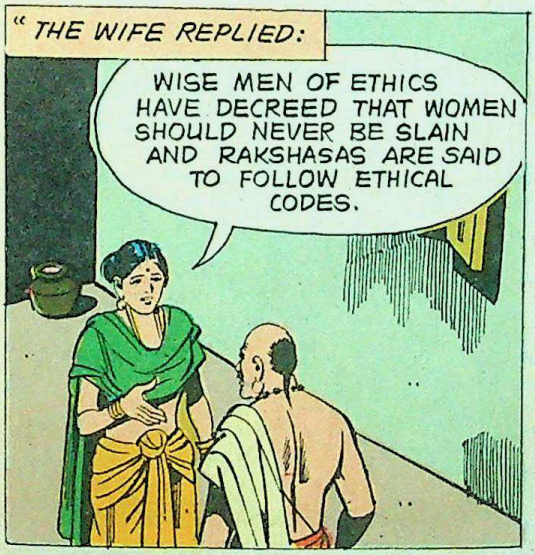

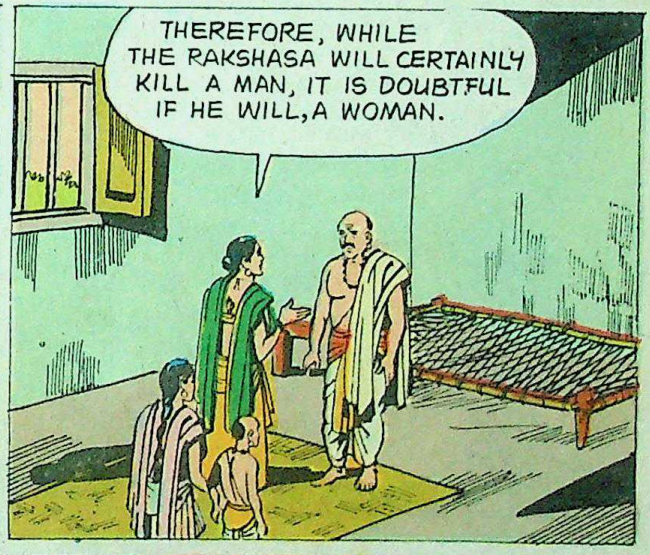

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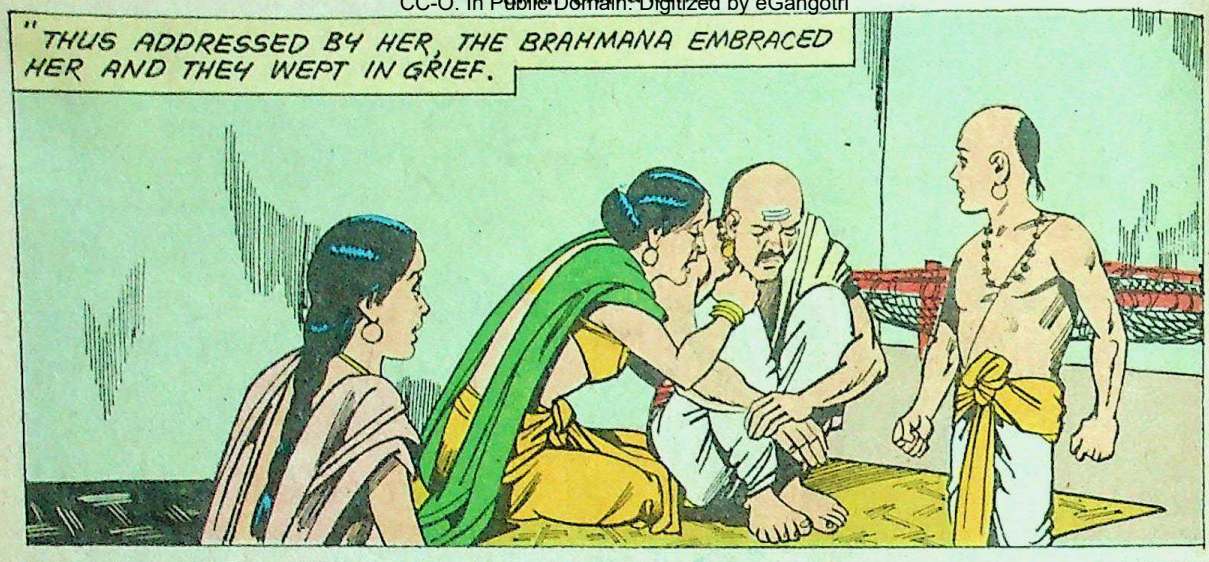

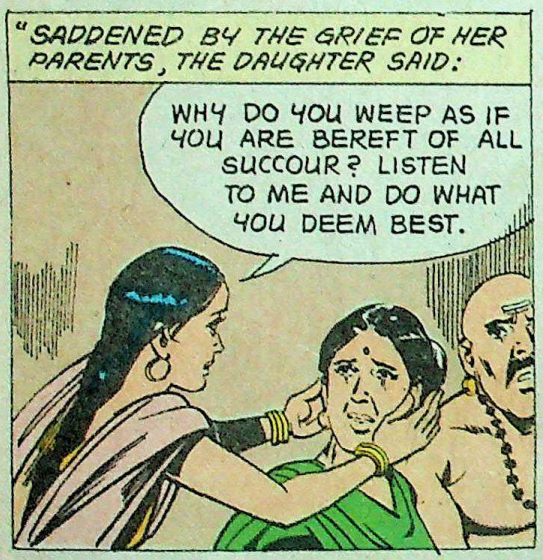

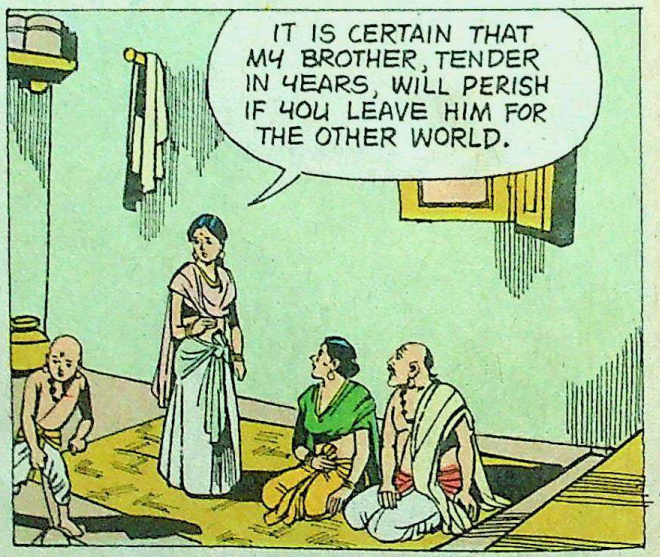

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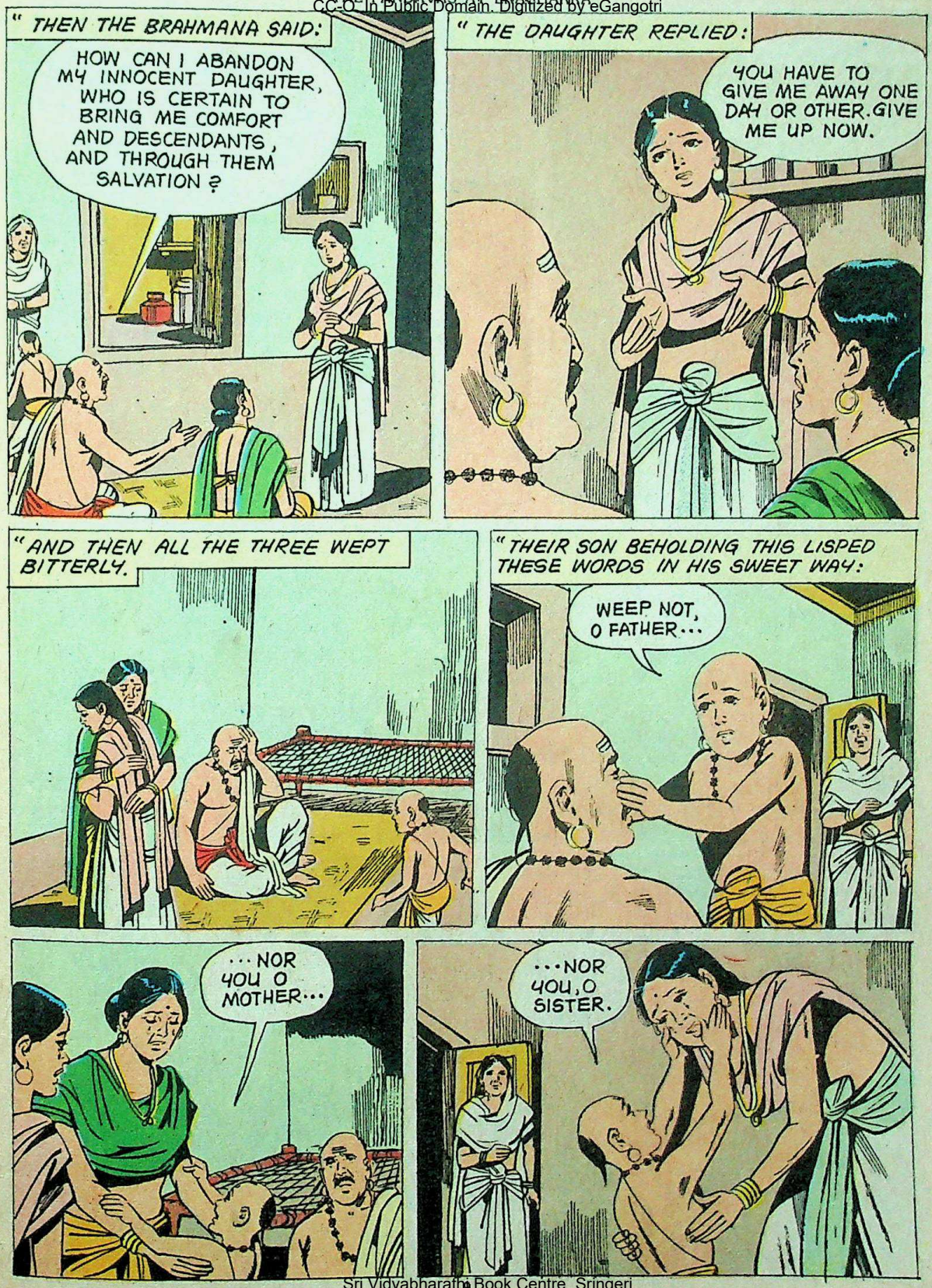

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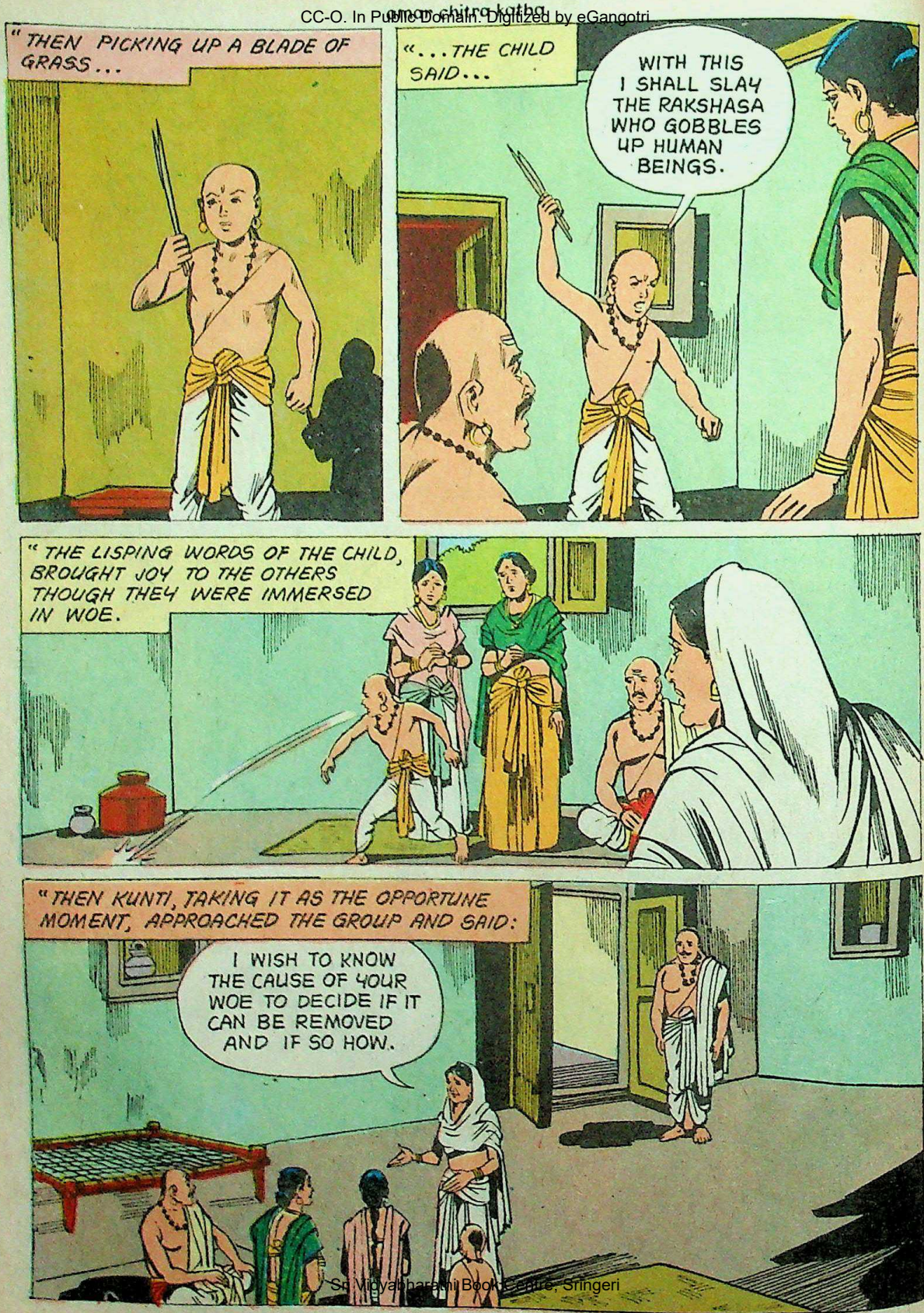

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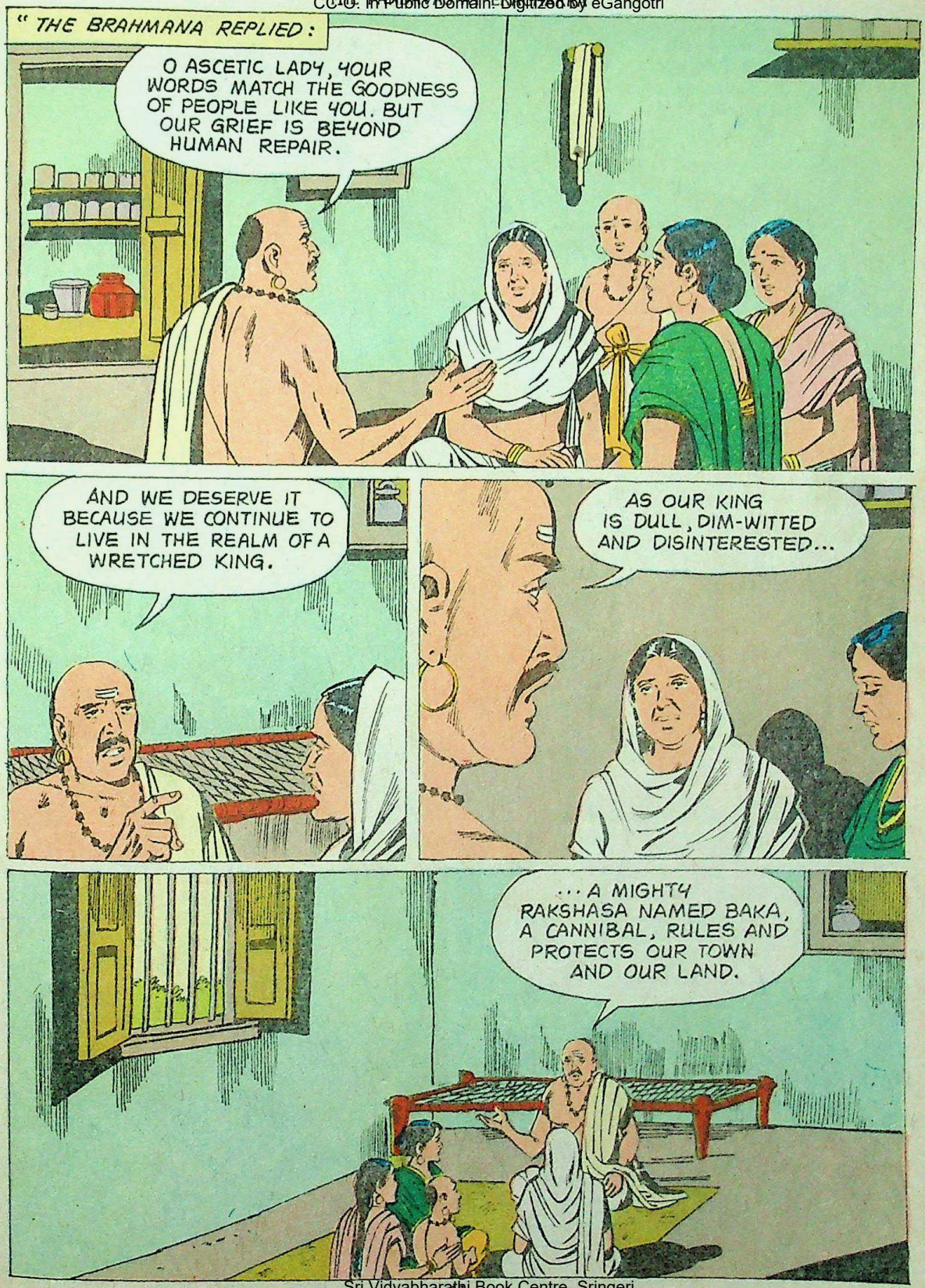

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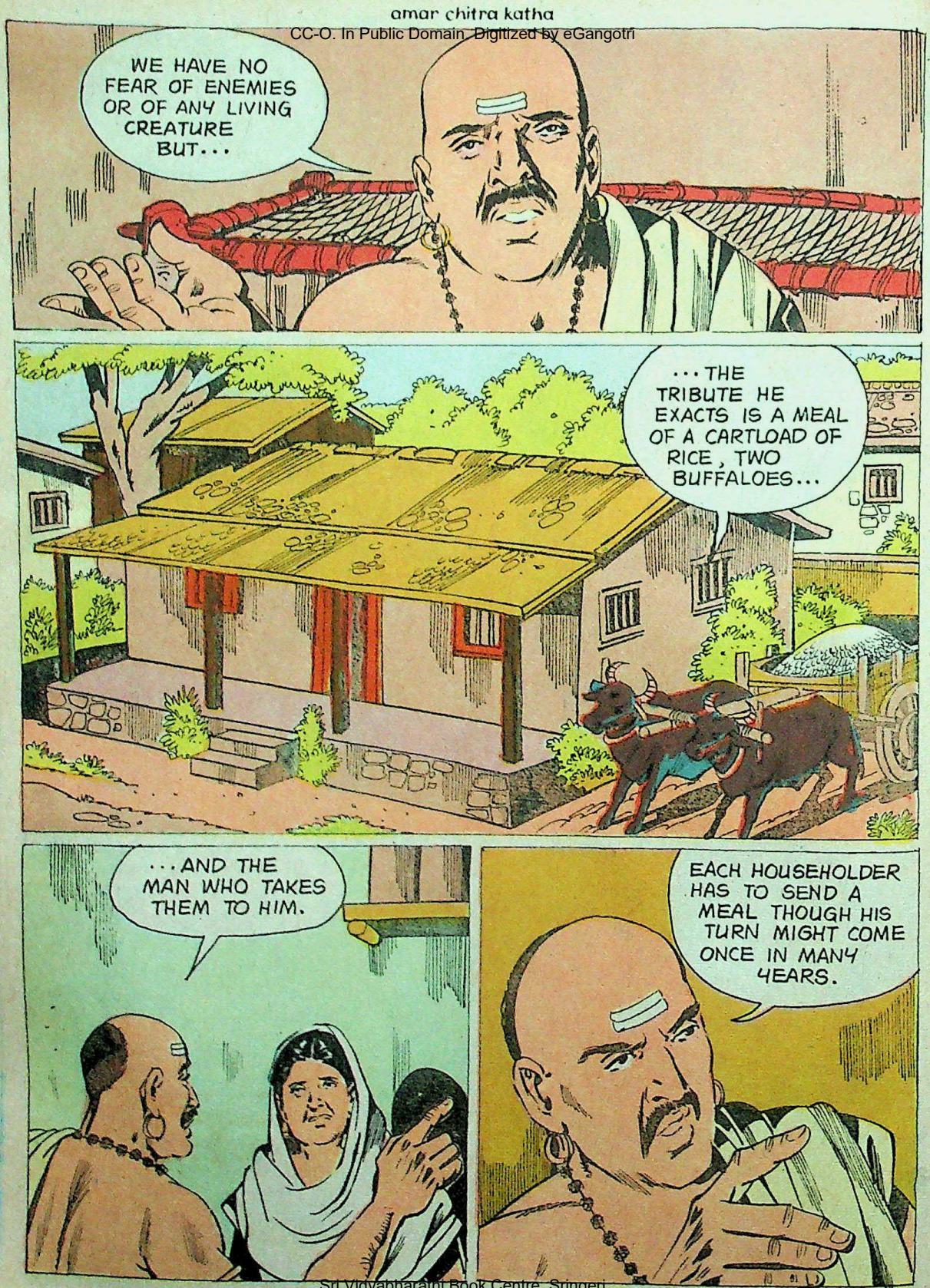

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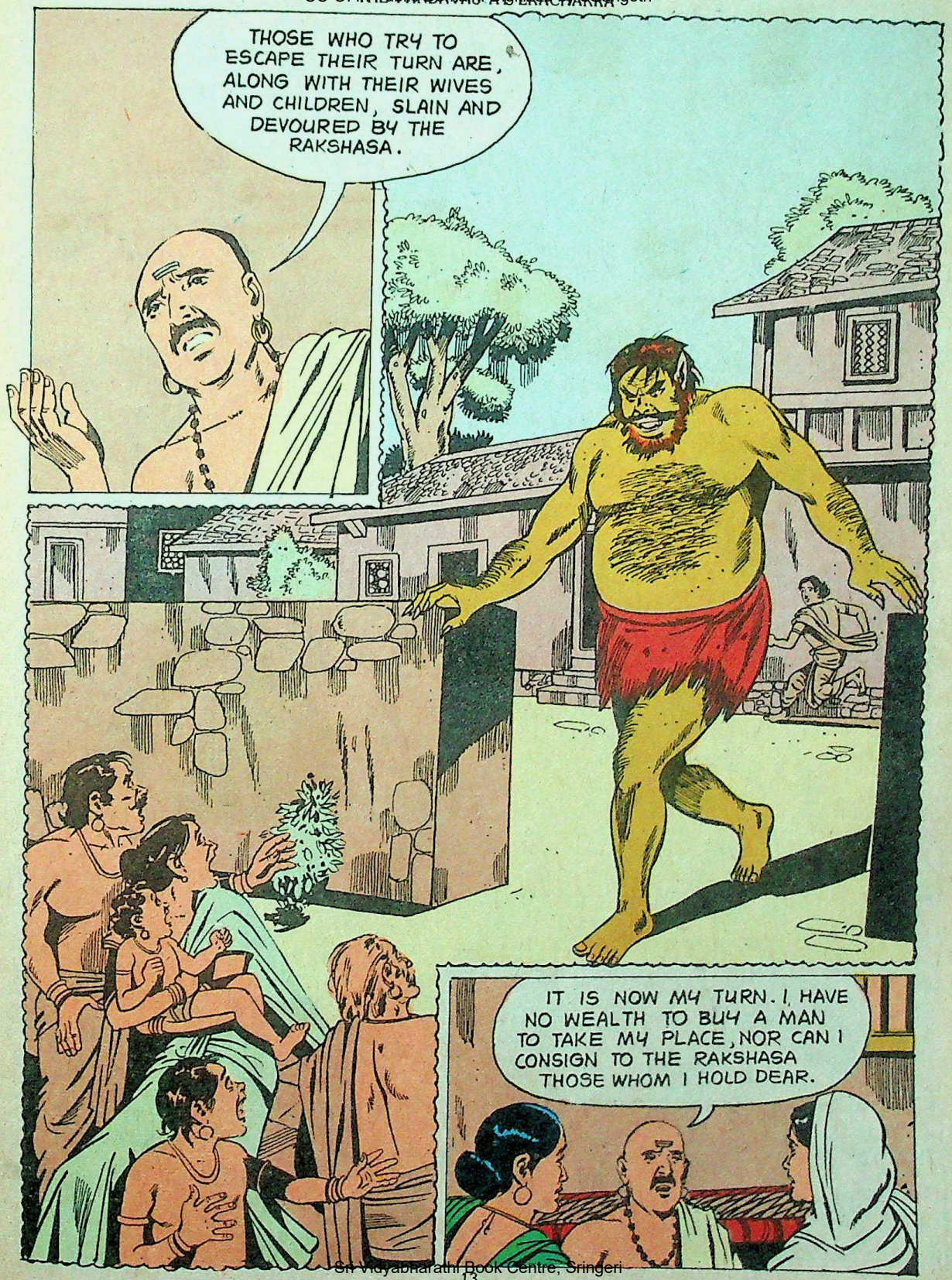

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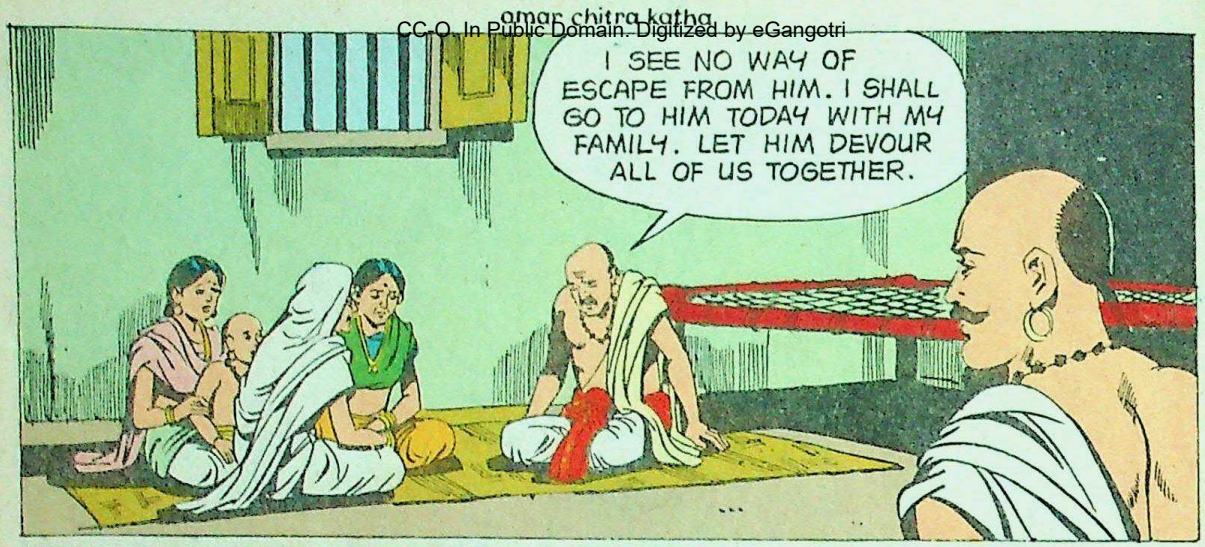

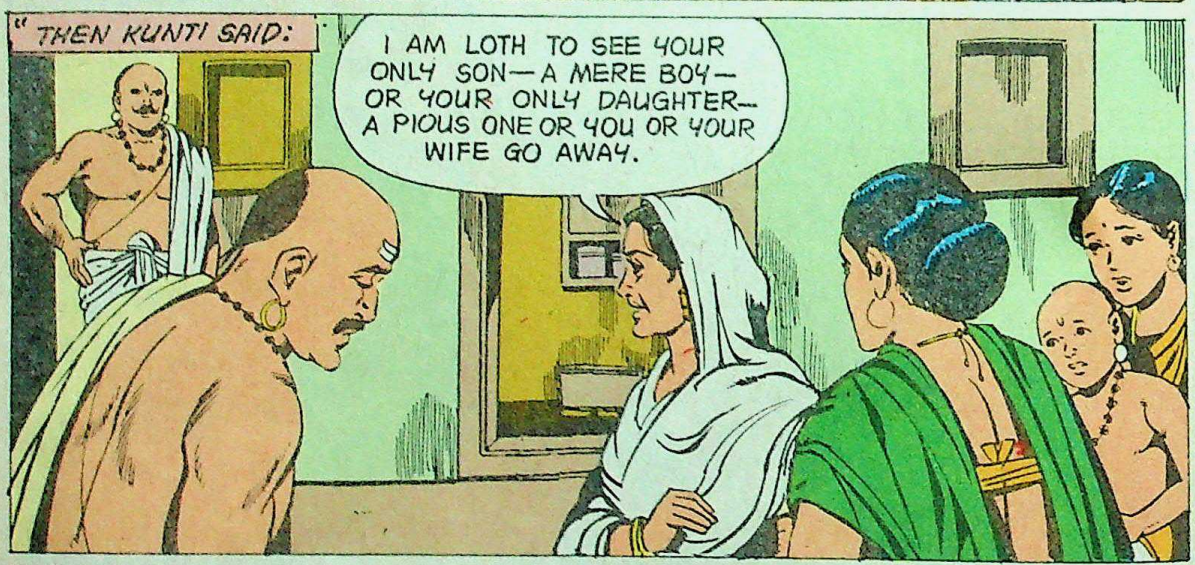

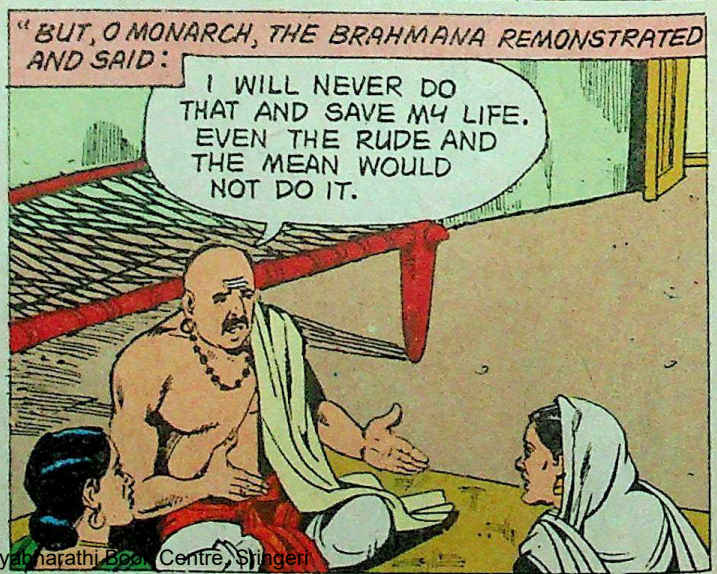

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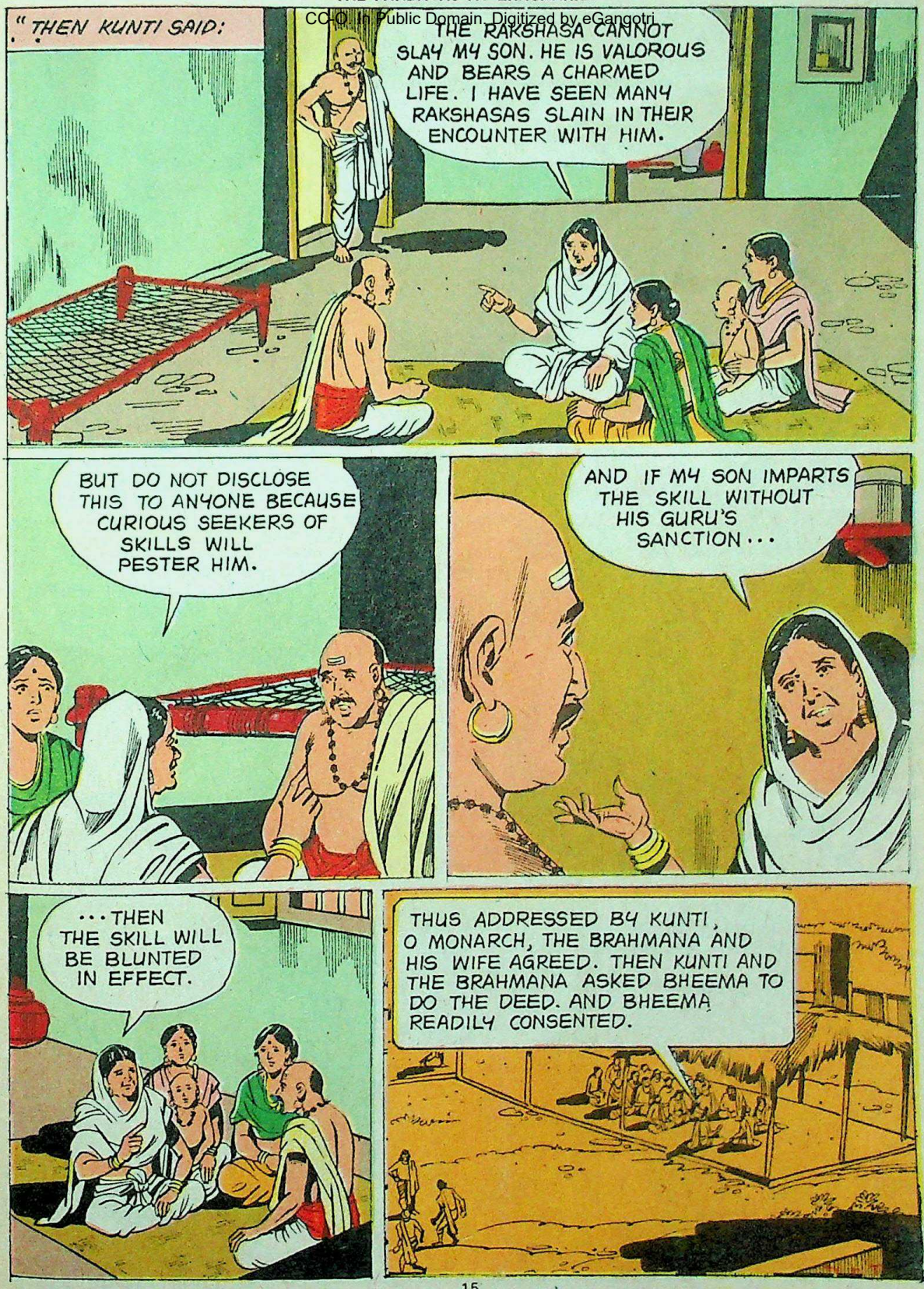

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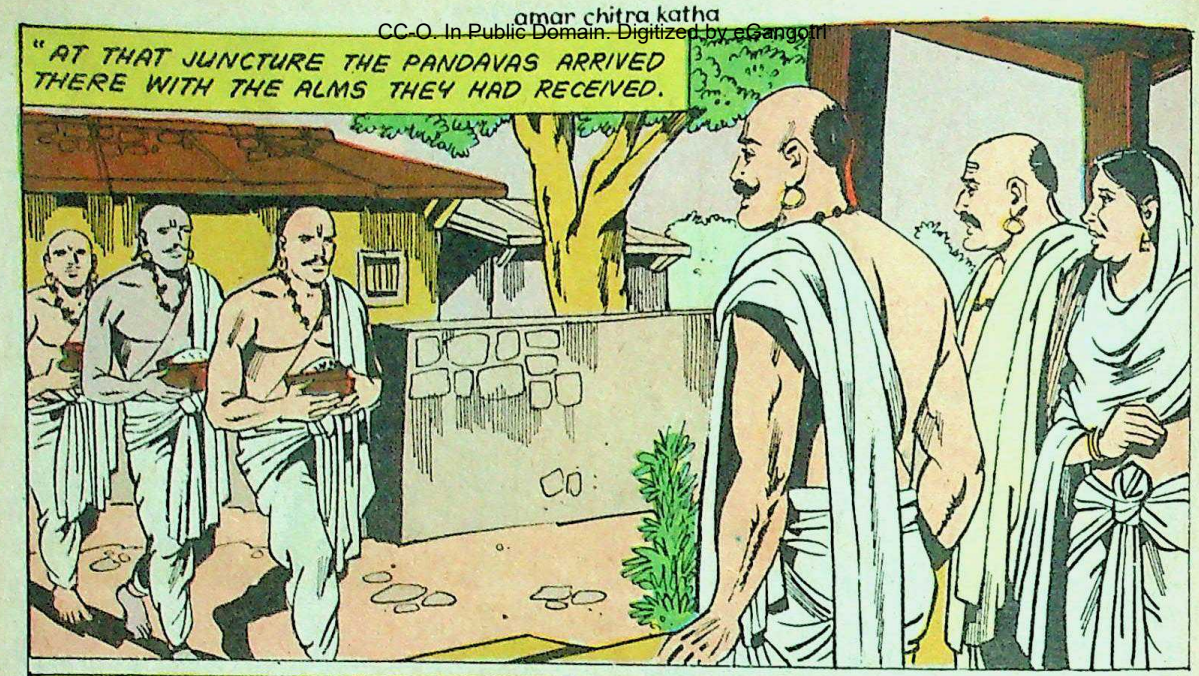

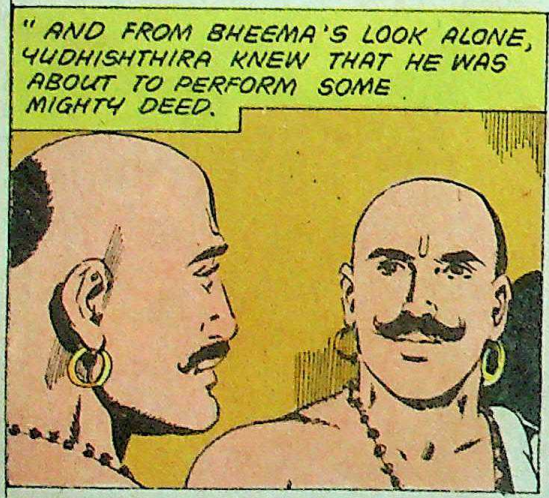

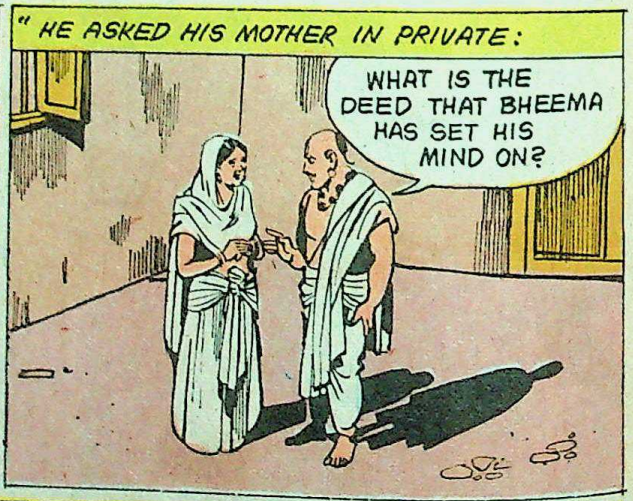

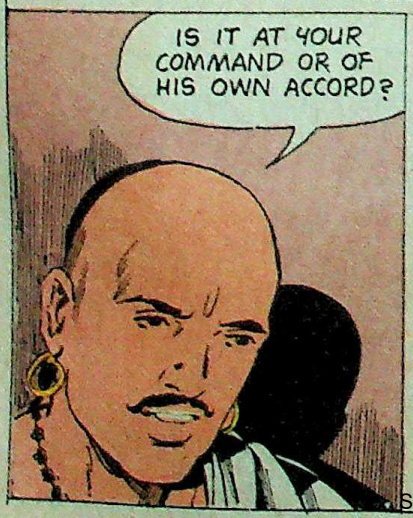

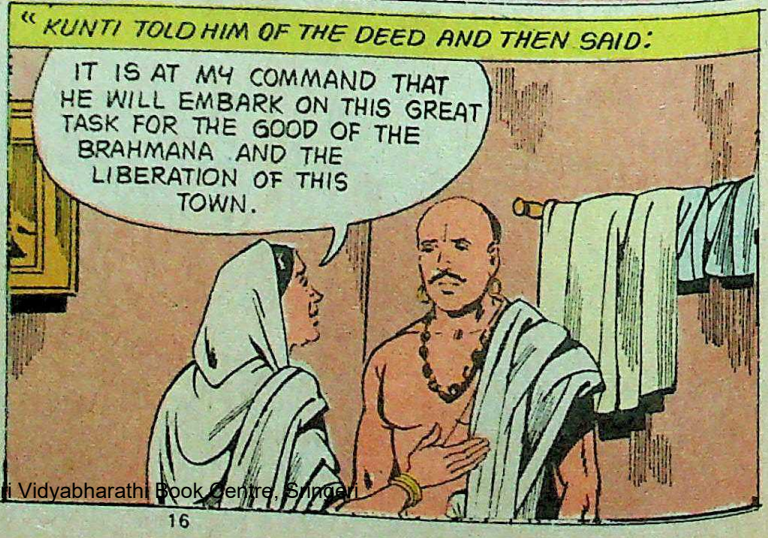

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"YUDHISHTHIRA SAID:

O MOTHER, ABANDONING ONE'S SON DOES NOT CARRY THE SANCTION OF THE WISE.

BY SACRIFICING YOUR CHILD FOR ANOTHER'S, YOU HAVE ACTED AGAINST THE PRECEPTS OF THE VEDAS AND THE PRACTICE OF THE WORLD.

HAS YOUR DISCRETION BEEN BLUNTED BY CALAMITIES? IS YOUR REASONING ERODED? WHAT PROMPTS YOU TO ABANDON BHEEMA...

...WHOSE OVERPOWERING VALOUR EVER DRAINED THE TERRIFIED DURYODHANA AND SHAKUNI OF THEIR SLEEP...

...AND RESCUED US FROM THE MANSION OF FIRE...

...WHOSE MIGHTY ARMS ASSURE US OF PEACEFUL SLEEP AND PROMISE US REINSTATEMENT IN OUR ANNEXED KINGDOM?

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"KUNTI REPLIED:

YOU MUST NOT BE ANXIOUS ABOUT BHEEMA. AND MY RESOLVE WAS NOT THE RESULT OF A FATIGUED BRAIN.

THE POWER OF BHEEMA, WITNESSED BY ME DURING OUR ESCAPE FROM THAT MANSION OF FIRE AND ALSO IN THE SLAYING OF HIDIMBA, HAS REINFORCED MY FAITH IN HIM.

IT WAS HIS STRENGTH OF 10,000 ELEPHANTS WHICH CARRIED ALL OF YOU— EACH ONE AS STRONG AS AN ELEPHANT— FROM VARANAVATA.

AND YEARS AGO, SOON AFTER HE SLIPPED FROM MY LAP, HIS FALL HAD CRUSHED UP THE ROCK BELOW.

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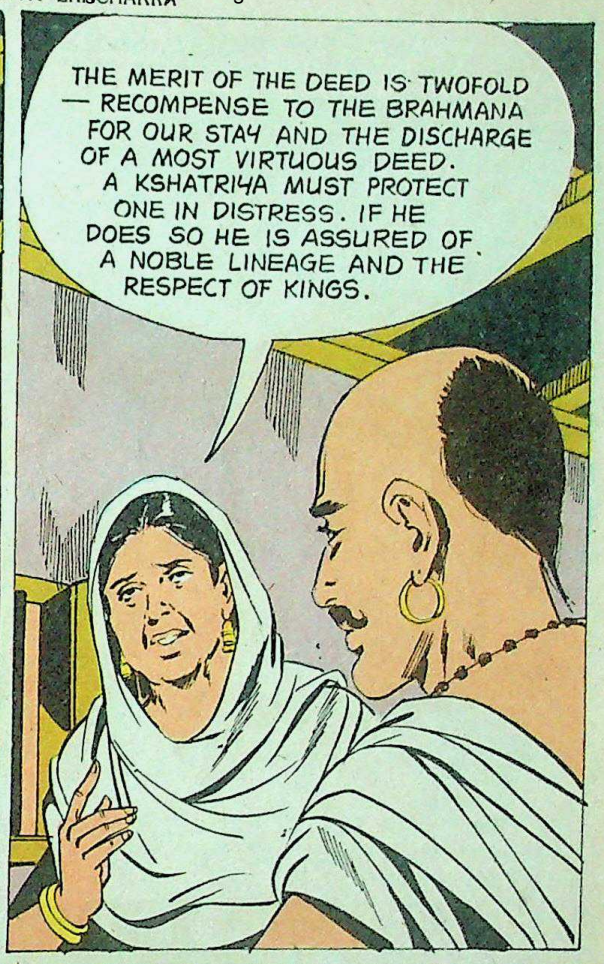

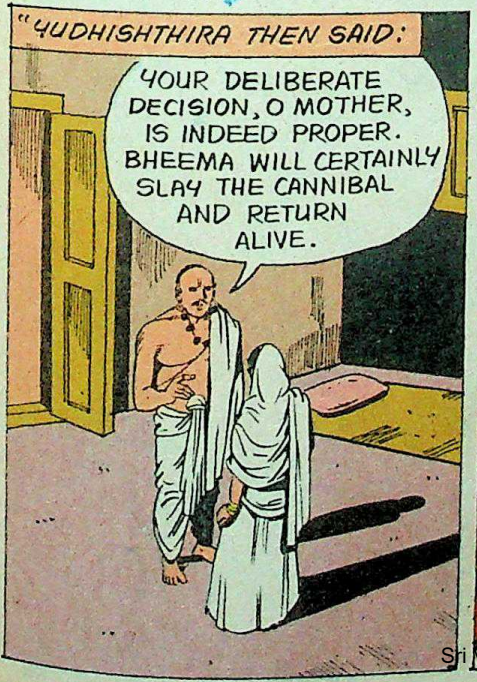

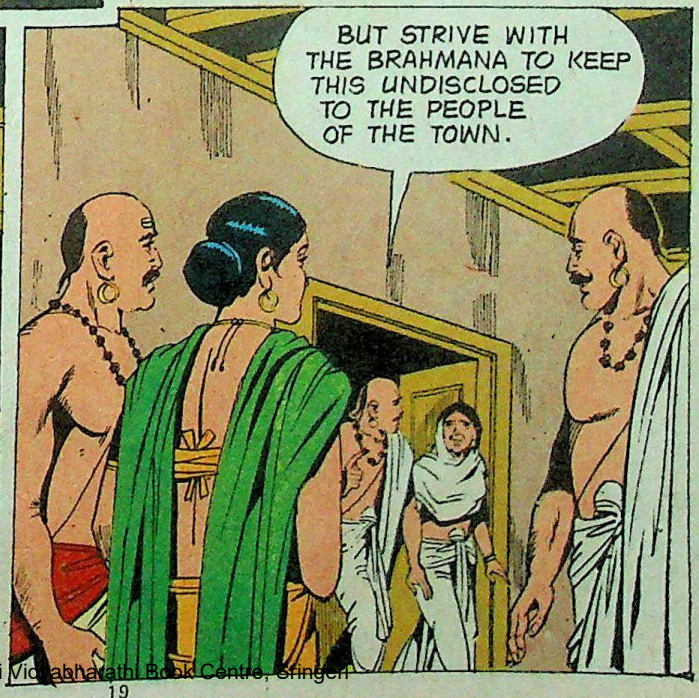

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"THEN, AS THE NIGHT PASSED, BHEEMA TOOK CHARGE OF THE FOOD FOR THE RAKSHASA AND SET OUT TO HIS ABODE.

"THE POWERFUL SON OF PANDU THEN ENTERED THE FOREST OF THE RAKSHASA, HELPING HIMSELF TO THE FOOD...

"...AND CALLING OUT:

BAKA—
O BAKA—
BAKA-A-

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"IMMENSE IN SIZE AND STRENGTH, RED ALL ALIKE IN EYES, HAIR AND BEARD, BAKA WAS FEARSOME TO BEHOLD...

"...AND HE CAME WITH AN EARTH-SPLITTING TREAD. AND BEHOLDING BHEEMA EATING HIS FOOD...

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"... THE RAKSHASA CAME UP IN FERVID FURY AND SAID:

WHO IS THIS VILLAIN EATING UP MY MEAL IN MY VERY PRESENCE AS IF HE IS KEEN TO BE SENT TO THE ABODE OF YAMA?

"BHEEMA, O MONARCH, ONLY SMILED IN DERISION...

"... AND CONTINUED TO EAT. BEHOLDING THIS...

"... THE CANNIBAL LET OUT A TERRIBLE ROAR...

E-EE-EA

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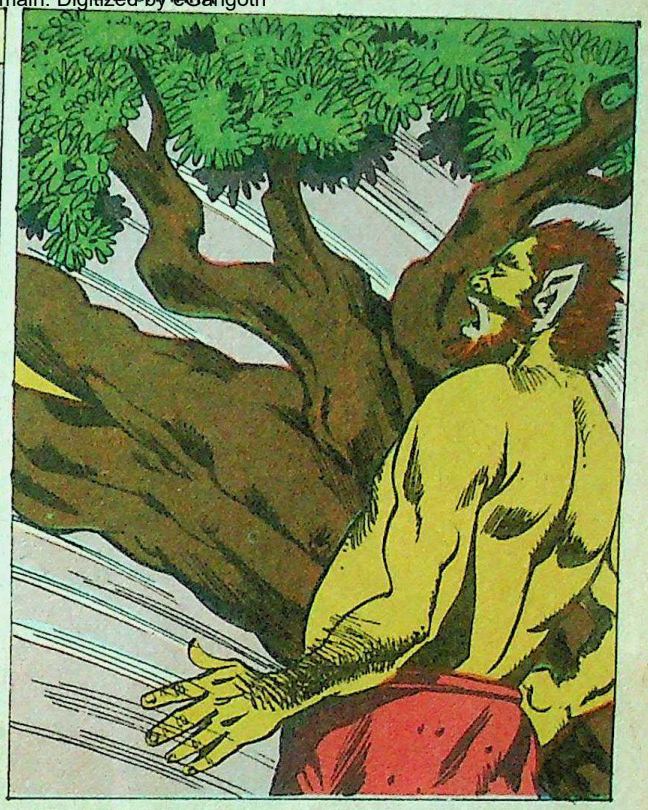
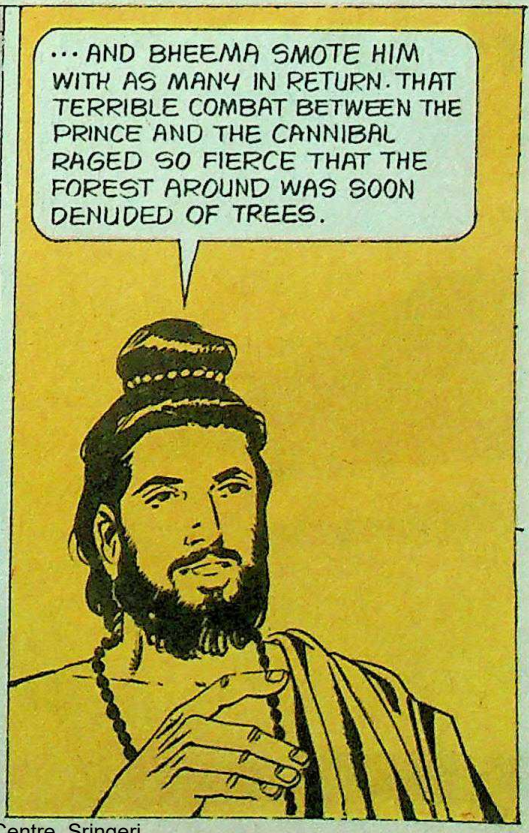
"...AND HURLED IT BACK AT THE RAKSHASA.



"THEN, O MONARCH, THE RAKSHASA UPROOTED MANY MORE TREES AND HURLED THEM AT BHEEMA...

...AND BHEEMA SMOTE HIM WITH AS MANY IN RETURN. THAT TERRIBLE COMBAT BETWEEN THE PRINCE AND THE CANNIBAL RAGED SO FIERCE THAT THE FOREST AROUND WAS SOON DENUDED OF TREES.



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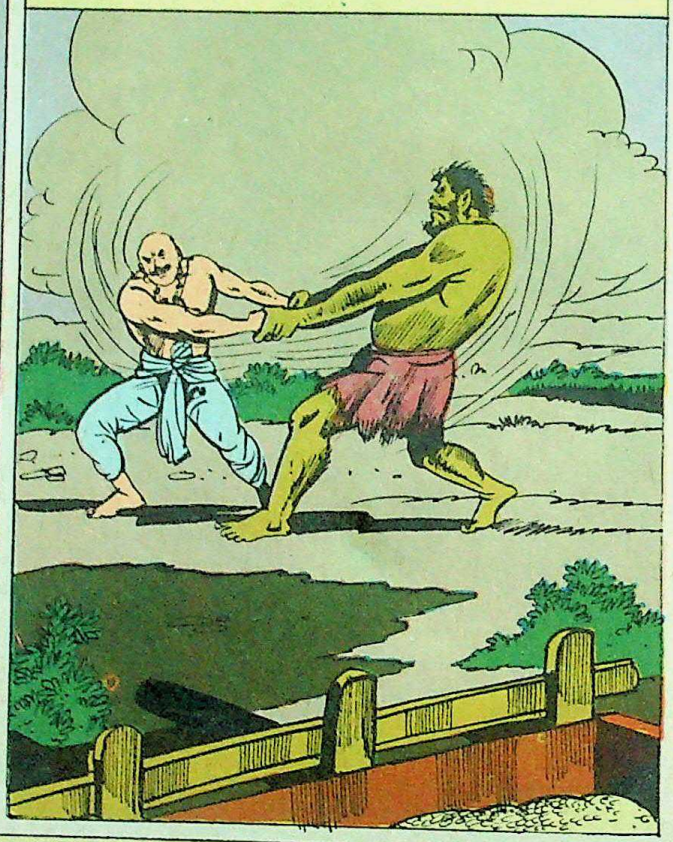
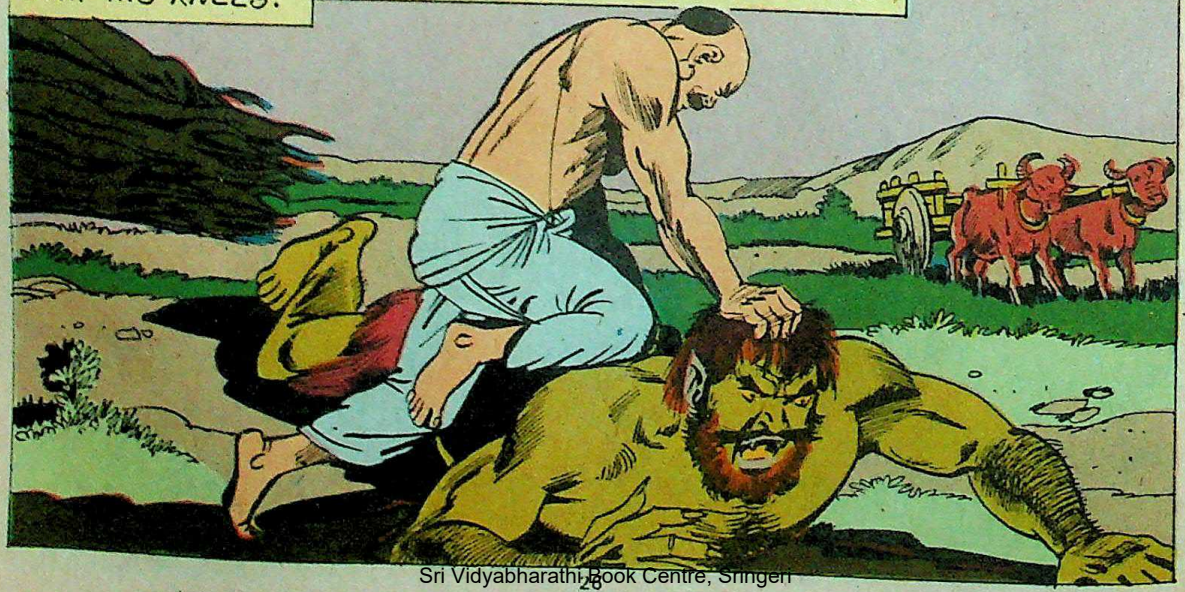
"THEN THE RAKSHASA SPRANG UPON BHEEMA AND SEIZED HIM. THE MIGHTY HERO ALSO HAD HIM IN HIS CLUTCHES.

"AND HE BEGAN DRAGGING HIM VIOLENTLY. THE CANNIBAL IN TURN PITTED HIS FORCE AGAINST THAT OF BHEEMA. THE VERY EARTH SEEMED TO TREMBLE UNDER THE FORCE UNLEASHED BY THE TWO.



"THEN BEHOLDING THAT THE CANNIBAL WAS OVERCOME BY FATIGUE, BHEEMA LAID HIM LOW AND PRESSED HIM DOWN WITH HIS KNEES.



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amar chitra katha
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"WHEN BHEEMA SAW THE TERROR-STRUCK GROUP, HE COMFORTED THEM AND SAID:

NEVER SHALL YOU KILL A HUMAN BEING. IF YOU DO, THEN YOU TOO WILL BE SLAIN LIKE BAKA.

"THE RAKSHASAS CONSENTED, O MONARCH, TO ABIDE BY THE COMMANDMENTS OF BHEEMA. THEN BHEEMA CARRIED THE LIFELESS CANNIBAL ...

"...TO THE TOWN GATES, DEPOSITED HIM THERE UNOBSERVED BY ANYONE...

"...AND RETURNED TO THE BRAHMANA'S HOUSE.

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"THE NEXT MORNING, AS THEY CAME OUT OF THE TOWN, THE PEOPLE SAW THE RAKSHASA DEAD ON THE GROUND, GLUTTED IN GORE.

"THEY WENT BACK AND SPREAD THE TIDINGS.

"AND THOUSANDS OF MEN, YOUNG AND OLD WITH THEIR WIVES AND CHILDREN, THRONGED THE SPOT TO SEE BAKA DEAD AND WERE AMAZED AT THE SUPERHUMAN DEED.

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THEY OFFERED PRAYERS TO THEIR DEITIES, AND THEN ASCERTAINED WHOSE TURN IT HAD BEEN TO CARRY THE MEAL.

" THEN THEY WENT TO THE HOUSE OF THE BRAHMANA...

"...AND QUESTIONED HIM. HE SAID TO THOSE IMPORTUNATE MEN:

WHILE I WAS LAMENTING MY FATE WITH MY RELATIVES, A BRAHMANA— NOBLE IN SPIRIT AND A MASTER OF OCCULT LORE— CAME TO ME AND SAID: I SHALL CARRY THE FOOD FOR THAT BRUTE TODAY. DO NOT FEAR FOR ME.

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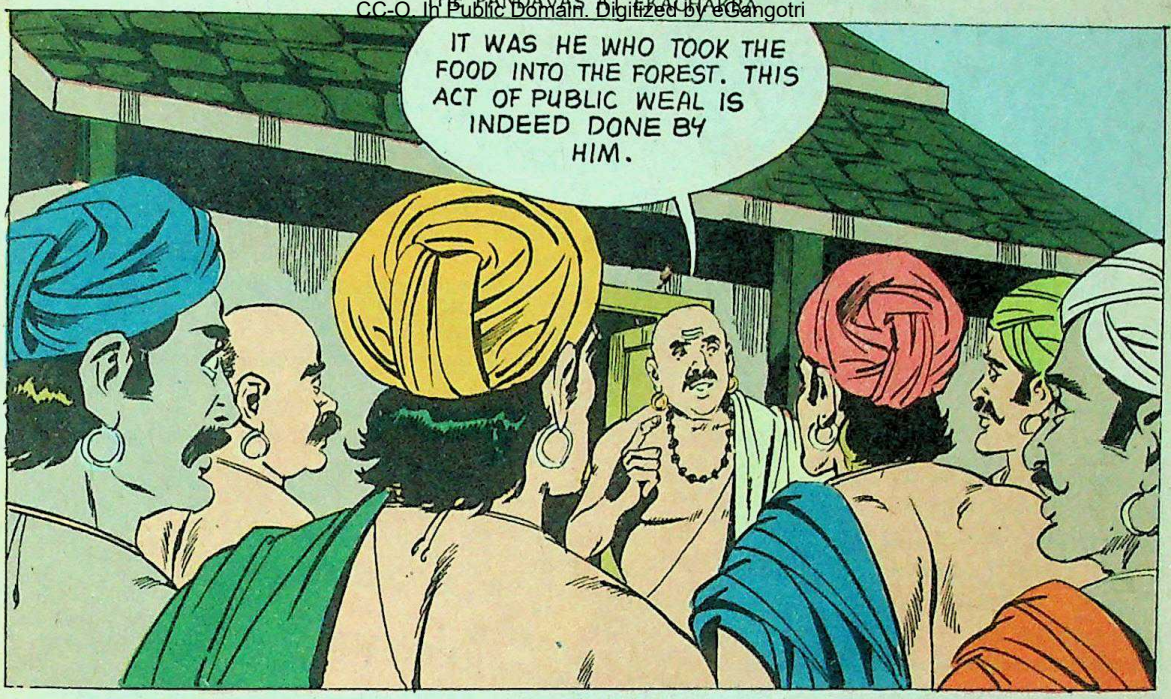

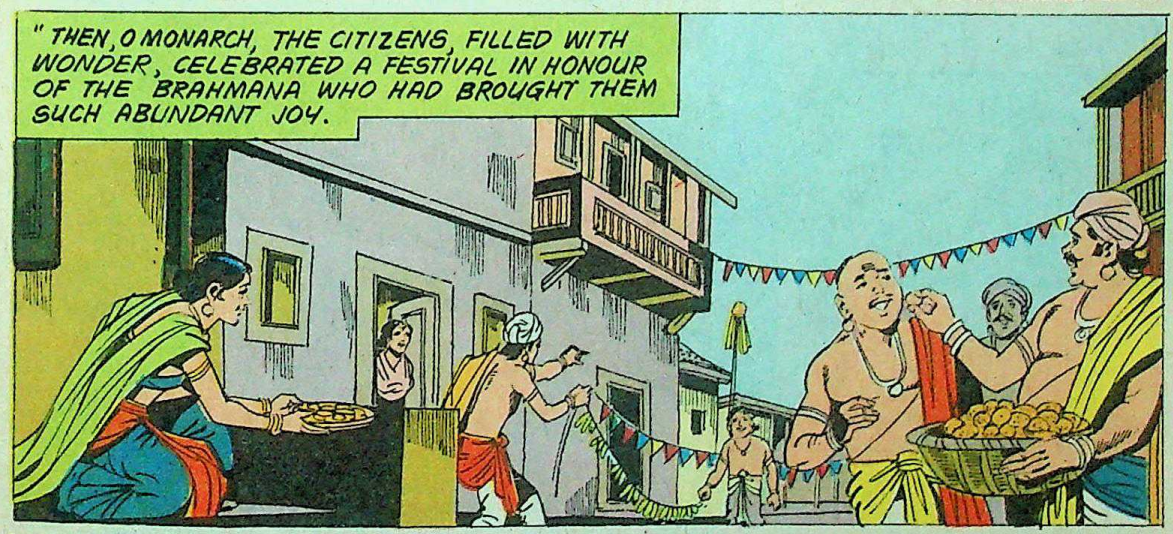

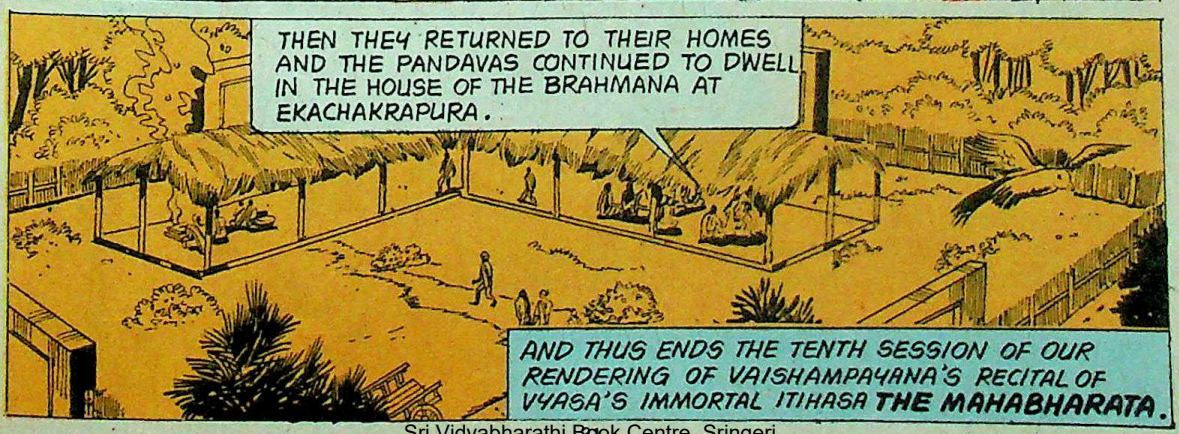

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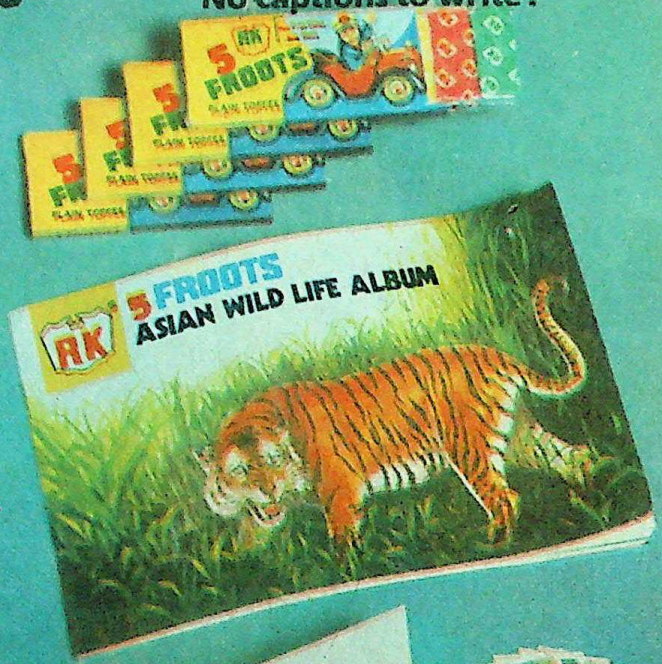

Complete the album with 'Animal Picture Cards' available in every 5 Froots pack. And receive 100 'Fold Up Letters' printed with your name and address. Plus your album too!

Animal Picture Cards' available in every 5 Froots pack.

What could be better than eating more and more of your favourite 5 Froots.

Much easier than a contest!

RK®

RAMKRISHNA FOOD PRODUCTS PVT. LTD.
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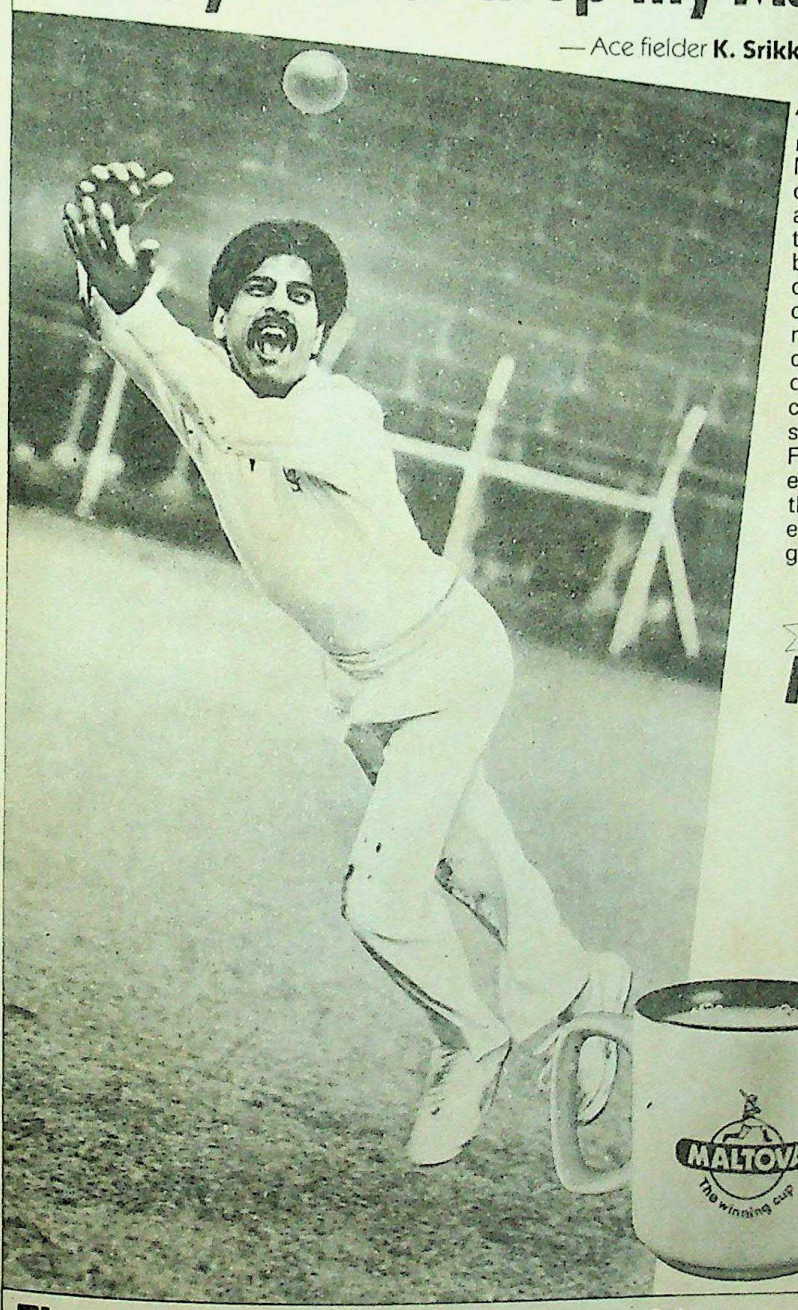
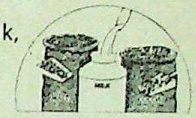
"To make those split-second catches you've got to be at the ready. That's why I never drop my Maltova!"

— Ace fielder **K. Srikkanth** on his amazing agility.



"My morning begins with a mug of hot, delicious Maltova. It's part of my line of attack! Gives me the alertness and energy I need to open the innings with a bang. Maltova is the only drink that has the concentrated goodness of malt, fresh creamy milk, delicious cocoa and sugar.



For the health, strength and energy I need — on or off the field. Drink Maltova everyday, twice a day and grow into a champion."

NEW

MALTOVA®

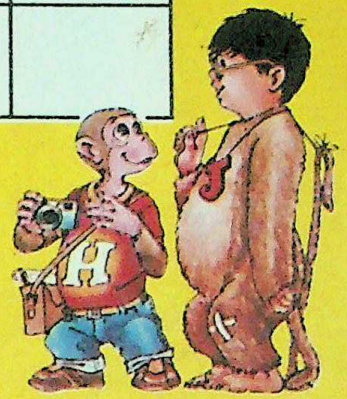
The winning combination of health, strength and energy

FSA/JIL/1/85

Sri Vidyabharathi Book Centre, Sringeri

TIME-TABLE

DAY	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
MON								
TUE								
WED								
THU								
FRI								
SAT								



योगक्षेमं वहाम्यहम्

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